

War Danger Grows as U. S. Tries to Line Up Great Britain Against Mexico

As the situation now stands between the United States and Mexico a break in diplomatic relations seems inevitable.

Two very sinister developments point in this direction.

1.—The United States is preventing as far as possible a break of its own nationals in the direction of yielding to the new Mexican laws peacefully. Says a Mexico City News dispatch:

"All except two American oil companies operating in Mexico have arrived at an agreement among themselves and WITH THE AMERICAN STATE DEPARTMENT to stand pat in their refusal to exchange their fee simple titles for fifty year concessions."

"Final instructions to this effect have been received by the Mexico City and Tampico representatives of these companies. AMBASSADOR SHEFFIELD WILL HAVE CHARGE OF THEIR CASE AND THEY WILL BE GUIDED BY HIS ADVICE."

"The oil companies do not expect the Mexican government to modify its laws to satisfy the American protests. THEY ARE EQUALLY CONVINCED THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WILL NOT

BACK DOWN.
Do you get the full purport of this?

The Coolidge-Kellogg administration is encouraging American owners in Mexico to break the new Mexican laws; IT IS LINING THEM UP SOLIDLY TO TAKE A STAND THAT WILL MEAN THE CONFISCATION OF THEIR PROPERTIES, UNLESS UNITED STATES GUNS PREVENT THIS. MOREOVER, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS GIVEN ITS PLEDGE THAT IT WILL PROTECT THESE AMERICANS IN MEXICO IN THEIR DEFIANCE OF MEXICAN LAW AND SEE THAT THEY SHALL NOT LOSE THEIR PROPERTIES.

This is a virtual declaration of war against the sovereignty of Mexico. It leaves no alternative but a backdown either by the United States or by Mexico.

But this is no more ominous than the other, thing the United States is doing.

2.—ALTHOUGH BRITISH NATIONALS ARE WILLING TO AGREE TO THE NEW MEXICAN LAWS, AND ARE SIGNING AGREEMENTS, THE WALL-STREET-OWNED ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON IS TRYING TO PREVENT THIS AND IS TRYING TO INDUCE GREAT BRITAIN TO JOIN THE UNITED STATES IN THIS AS-

SAULT ON MEXICAN SOVEREIGNTY AND INTEGRITY.

From the same dispatch quoted above, we quote the following:

"In an effort to line the British government up with the American government in the controversy with the Mexican government over the alien land and oil laws, Ambassador Sheffield this week will begin conferences with Edmund Ovey, British minister to Mexico.

"THE DISPOSITION OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, AS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE APPLICATION OF THE EL AGUILA OIL COMPANY FOR CONCESSIONS UNDER THE NEW MEXICAN LAW, IS TO ACCEPT THE LAW. El AgUILA is the principal British interest operating in Mexico. Its land holdings obtained through purchase in fee simple of lease and concessions exceed those of any other oil company and constitute a veritable kingdom.

"The Texas company and Waters Pierce interests are the two American companies which have elected to record their proofs to the titles, apply for the concessions, abide

by the Mexican law, and agree before the ministry of foreign affairs not to invoke diplomatic intervention of their own government.

"Ambassador Sheffield believes that Great Britain and the United States will, on the showdown, act in unity against the land and oil laws. In oil circles the opinion prevails that notwithstanding any assurances Mr. Ovey may give Mr. Sheffield, El AgUILA and associated British oil interests in Mexico will be allowed a free hand."

Never before in the history of this country has American capitalism and American imperialism been so nakedly and brazenly and brutally bold.

Never before in the history of this country has an administration, calling itself the representative of the American people and the champion of American democracy, surrendered so completely, beat its back so lowly, crawled in the dust so shamelessly and licked the feet of capitalism and imperialism so disgustingly as the Coolidge-Kellogg Republican Party regime.

Not satisfied to merely defend those American land and oil interests that do not want to yield in Mexico to Mexican laws, it goes outside of these to

prevent other American interests from obeying Mexican laws.

Not satisfied with fighting merely for the interests of American capitalists, it is attempting to get British capitalists to break agreements already signed and to get the British government, which is satisfied and peacefully disposed, to join in its wrecking Mexican laws and Mexican sovereignty and in looting wholesale the Mexican nation.

This stand is so unusual, so unjustifiable, so monstrous, that one cannot account for it, except as the result of an effort to cover up and protect an amazing amount of property stolen from the Mexican people by crooked means, as reported by Marc Lewis in last week's issue of the American Appeal.

It is highly probable that an incredible amount of property covered by fake titles will revert to the Mexican people as a result of the enforcement of the new Mexican land and oil laws, and that Wall Street through its agents in Washington, D. C., is engaged in a desperate and reckless attempt to save these stolen goods, even at the risk of war.

Shall we go to war for such a cause?

The American people can give a decisive and final NO to this question by the assertion of a public opinion with which the militarists and imperialists of this nation will not dare to tamper.

Socialists of Maryland Gain Legal Standing Be Big Issue in Present Session

Official Count Shows Good Gain Over Vote Cast In 1923

S. M. Neistadt, Baltimore, Secretary of the Socialist Party, Maryland, reports as follows on the election results in the November election:

Allow me to correct the statement of the vote cast for the Socialist Party candidates in Maryland. The vote in Maryland for the first time in the last few years showed a marked gain.

The vote cast in 1923 and 1924 for the same offices:

1923

Governor 1165
Comptroller 2621
Clark of Court of Appeals 2887
Attorney General 2341

1924

Governor 2195
Comptroller 3120
Clark of Ct. of Appeal 4243
Attorney General 2951

The above vote will give us the official standing in Maryland.

On November 14th the Socialist Party of Baltimore held a Eugene V. Debs Memorial Meeting with comrades Melvin Freedman and James O'Neal the speakers, the attendance of the meeting being about 1600 socialists and sympathizers.

However you vote, those you put power will consider you gave them license for further graft. And if you vote either old party ticket, they will be right.

General Fries, Here Is Your Answer

General Fries, you attempted to get a high school teacher separated from his job because he asked in a magazine contest six questions of a critical nature regarding the pre-ent industrial system.

In your letter to this man's principal, you attempted only a partial answer of one of these questions.

Dr. Flury asked, "Why do little children still toil in factories?"

In your letter you admit that there is some child labor, but you assert that it is disappearing.

Here are the facts taken from the recent report of the present Secretary of Labor, John J. Davis:

Says this report: "The Children's Bureau of the Department studied conditions in plants in Delaware, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, New York and Wisconsin. The institutions investigated employed 50,000 persons. Among these were 3,257 children under 16 years of age and 1,092 under 11."

The Bureau found a great many children in eastern industrial centers were employed out of school hours, in real jobs that could not be classified as "chores." In the city of Newark 7,500 children under 16 were thus employed; in Patterson, 2,000. Detroit made the worst showing of any city in the employment of children.

The report says, "MANY CHILDREN WERE EMPLOYED EXCESSIVELY LONG HOURS AND NIGHT WORK WAS REPORTED FOR A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER."

And now, this one, Gen. Fries, is for "patriots" like you, who cannot stand to hear this industrial system criticized:

STATISTICS GATHERED BY THE BUREAU SHOWED THAT IN 23 OUT OF 25 CITIES HAVING A POPULATION OF 100,000 OR MORE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN BETWEEN 14 AND 16 WHO WERE ENTERING REGULAR EMPLOYMENT FOR THE FIRST TIME, REVEALED AN INCREASE.

General Fries, where did you get your authority for saying that child labor is decreasing in the United States?

Did you make an unqualified statement without any knowledge as to whether or not it was true?

Who should lose his position: you, or Dr. Flury?

Emergency Law May Shut Workers From Radio Use

An emergency law impends in the short session of Congress this winter which will forbid the granting of any more licenses for broadcasting stations until permanent legislation on the use of the air is passed.

Representative White, Republican, of Maine, who is in charge of radio legislation, has announced that he has already drafted a resolution providing that until otherwise provided by law NO LICENSES OTHER THAN RENEWALS OF EXISTING LICENSES shall be issued for radio broadcasting stations and that he intends to introduce this early in the present session of congress.

The passage of this measure now would mean nothing less than the shutting out of labor and progressive movements from the use of the radio with the single exception of the Chicago Federation of Labor, until the impending monopoly of the air is perfected and legally entrenched.

That the labor and progressive elements are actually facing the closing of the radio to them as an instrument of enlightenment—that one of the greatest and most effective weapons of propaganda is about to fall into the almost exclusive use of the capitalist class appears from the following facts:

There are only 39 wave lengths—39 channels of the ether suitable for broadcasting.

Experts are of the opinion that there should not be more than two 500 watt stations to each wave length, and that these two should be at least 2,000 miles apart. According to this calculation, there ought not to be more than 178 broadcasting stations operating in this country. There are now 615 licensed and operating.

With this situation before them, the interests seeking to control the air expect to encounter easy sledding in obtaining legislation that will shut out the workers and all who oppose the existing industrial system from the use of the air.

Private property in the air was recently ruled legal by a Chicago district judge. Legislation backing up this court ruling WILL INEVITABLY APPORTION THE VERY LIMITED NUMBER OF WAVE LENGTHS AMONG THE INTERESTS ALREADY IN CONTROL OF THE FIELD.

There is not a ghost of a chance for the workers to use this avenue of communication to broadcast their cause, unless they gain foothold in the air before such legislation materializes, or unless they establish a democratic public right in the use of the air.

Says Stockyards Again Turn Out

Putrid Products Marine Engineers Want Uncle Sam to Operate Vessels

Packers once—they know it—they undoubtedly would cringe if you took up "the big stick."

Don't take my word, investigate for yourself or cause an investigation to be made that will not be a "white wash."

The principle of "present cost" as a basis of valuation, if applied to the railroads, would make their "value" at least thirty billion dollars—and probably a great deal more—in place of twenty billions, as fixed by the Interstate Commerce Commission. Seven per cent interest on thirty billion dollars would guarantee the railroad owners \$2,100,000,000 out of the pockets of the American people every year.

This decision was written by Justice Pierce Butler, Justices Stone and Brandeis vigorously dissenting. Butler, a Minnesota railroad corporation lawyer, was appointed to the Supreme Court over the vigorous protest of the Farmer-Labor and progressive elements of Minnesota. It was charged at the time that he was put on the Supreme Bench by railroad influence.

Under the ruling, of the total annual income that will now come to the corporation, which will be \$1,330,000, \$500,120 will go to the bondholders who will put up every dollar that the plant cost. The rest, \$229,875 per year goes to the holding company which has the common stock, which apparently does not represent a dollar of actual investment.

7 Per Cent On "Present Cost" Is Legalized

U.S. Supreme Court Hands Utility Firm 7 Per Cent On More Than Twice Its Investment

The corporation which supplies Indianapolis, Indiana, with water has invested about \$100,000 in its plant.

Last week the Supreme Court of the United States decided that on January 1, 1924, the "value" of the plant was \$1,330,000, and that the company is entitled to rates which will yield a 7 per cent return on that sum.

That means that the water consumers of Indianapolis must pay the water company 7 per cent per annum on \$10,000,000 more than the amount actually invested in the enterprise.

This will be equivalent to a tax on the water consumers of Indianapolis of \$700,000 a year.

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THEODORE THE BELOVED

BY GUY BOGART

Theodore, the Beloved!
Our Theodore of the house of Debs—
Great lover of your fellows,
Protector of Our Gene,
A comrade's devotion know.

Gentle his touch and gentle his speech,
And gentle the life of—
Theodore the Beloved—
That invincible gentleness
But Lao-Tzu praised.

Would you know the revolution,
The union of proletarian struggle
With the love of All?

Would you know the heart and the soul—
By sordid, sickening struggle oft obscured—
The love of socialism?

Then touch the hem of—

Theodore the Beloved.

Oh comrade-lover of mine,
Those hours in your office, in your home,
Those letters across the continent,
Written by tired fingers—
Soul-vibrations linking me to the Highest,
Making sacred our common cause for human freedom.

I have seen tears in those soft eyes,
Eyes oft, too, turned to steel
When the spirit of Jesus-within-the-temple
With whips and scourges would drive the
Parasites to their kennels,
From the temples of the boys who work.

I have felt the fire of great passion
Wrought to gentle fury
By comrades' sufferings and mine,
I have touched the hand and felt the beat of heart;
I have listened to the words of consecration
To the revolution's undying urge;
Have felt the melting fires of devotion
To workers' upward quest,
Have known the joy of comradeship
With Theodore the Beloved.

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Watson-Parker
Board Awards
Raise In Wages

NEW YORK.—The first decision made by the board of arbitration operating under the new Watson-Parker railroad bill, given out last week, awarded \$9,000 conductors and trainmen on eastern railroads an increase of 7½ per cent in wages, or approximately \$15,000,000 a year.

The employees had asked approximately fifty roads for wage increases of 19 per cent, or \$36,000,000 a year, amounting to a rise of about \$1 a day. The advance averages about 42 cents a day per employee.

The report settles a dispute of a year's standing between the union and the roads. The increase is effective as of Dec. 1.

Board Vote Is 4 to 2.

The award was made by a vote of 4 to 2 of the board. Edgar E. Clark, former chairman of the I. C. C., and William D. Baldwin of the Otis Elevator company, representing the public on the board, voted with the rail road union members, E. P. Curtis, general secretary, Order of Railway Conductors, and Daniel L. Cense, editor of the Railway Trainmen. Dissenting votes were cast by the railroad representatives, Robert V. Mason, assistant vice president of the Pennsylvania railroad, and William A. Baldwin, vice president of the Erie railroad.

Socialists of
Italy Rebuild

(Continued from page 1)

gible results, and during the terrible hours which they are doomed to live through. It is our duty to afford them the solace to be derived from the certainty that their comrades abroad, according to their example, are pursuing and advancing the work for freedom and for Socialism.

It is feared that many Socialists and Communists have lost their lives in the present orgy of murder and raping in Italy. The 532 political prisoners recently arrested in Italy, it is feared, included beloved and prominent Socialists.

A correspondent writes from Italy to the International Information:

It is too soon as yet to reckon up in full the deeds of violence which followed the alleged attempted assassination at Bologna. But it is already safe to say that the Terror has reached a pitch of violence and fury such as was only seen in the first years of Fascism. The entire Oppos- ition is suppressed, both that of the Socialists, Communists, and Republicans, and the more moderate journals of the Catholics, Liberals, the German minority in the Tyrol and the Slav minority in Istria.

Unlike previous experiences, this time it was Milan where the violence was the most appalling. At least two hundred private houses and offices were completely wrecked, and also at variably the opportunity for plunder was seized. This is the effect of Deputy Caldara, in addition to valuable pictures a bronze statue was stolen which had been presented to the former Socialist Mayor of Milan by the Socialist Mayor of Vienna. In the house of Counte Nenni were found the furniture and fittings destroyed. Many members of the Opposition suffered personal violence. Among other things, many was done to the Deputies Rapisardi and Salvatori, the journalists Leonetti and Silvestri, and Brigatti, the former organizer of the Chamber of Workers, who had to go through an anxious quarter of an hour. The Fascists relentlessly hunted one leader of the Opposition after another, particularly Claudio Treves. A band of Fascists drove up to the home of Counte Nenni in an Ansaldo car No. 15026-38 and informed his wife and daughter that they would sacrifice for him the fate of Matteotti.

The news from the provinces is equally appalling. Bologna and the whole of Emilia are passing through days of unexampled horror. In many places the opponents of Fascism are scalped and then strip down pitiably. In Rome, that is strong public ownership sentiment among the railroad workers. This is being promoted by Labor, their official organ.

The railroad workers were quite solidly behind the Plumbe Plan of public ownership of the railroads (the Breda Plan) while Mr. Plumbe was alive. They have never repudiated this plan. Unfortunately there is strong public ownership sentiment among the railroad workers. This is being promoted by Labor, their official organ.

Among the conservative trade unions there are other groups that favor public ownership of the particular industry that covers their trade.

This attitude is significant in view of the fact that the officials of the American Federation of Labor for a number of years have been advocating the principle of free speech, and that they work in preference to the private ownership of such industries.

The United Mine Workers some time ago adopted the report passed by the International Labor Conference, which had an important influence, advocating public ownership of the industry and operation under the management of the miners, the representation of the management and the public.

The Electrical Workers have adopted a report urging the public ownership of coal power.

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